

RESPONSE

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action on the merits in this matter, mailed June 15, 2005. In view of the amendments and the remarks made herein, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of this application.

REMARKS

The examiner has raised the following issues:

1. Objection to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 57, 74 and 76 because of minor grammatical errors.

To overcome this basis of objection, in
claim 57, line 10,
claim 74, line 11, and
claim 76, line 12,
the phrase "stress compressive stress"
has been changed to read --compressive stress--.

2. Double Patenting Rejection

Rejection Based on Double Patenting, citing U.S. Patent No. 6,711,928.

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-30 and 37, 38, and 40 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. 101 based on obviousness type double-patenting, as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-9 of applicant's prior U.S. Patent No. 6,711,928 B1.

Accordingly, to expedite prosecution, a terminal disclaimer is filed herewith to obviate the double patenting rejection of claims 25-30 and 37, 38, and 40 over the inventor's own prior patent. It is therefore respectfully requested that this basis of rejection be withdrawn.

**3. Rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b)
as anticipated by Salter (U.S. Patent No. 3,270,410)**

The examiner has rejected claims 19-23, 44, 54-56 and 108-111 as being anticipated by Salter (U.S. Patent 3,270,410).

The applicant disagrees with this basis of rejection. To preserve the applicant's right to present detailed arguments in response to this rejection without delaying issue of the allowed claims, the applicant has cancelled the noted claims herein and will present the same for further examination in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that further attention to such matters be postponed until presentation of such claims in a continuation patent application.

**4. Rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b)
as anticipated by Hanna (U.S. Patent No. 2,810,191)**

The examiner has rejected claims 31-33, 76, 119, 124, 125 and 128 as being anticipated by Hanna (U.S. Patent No. 2,810,191).

The applicant disagrees with this basis of rejection. To preserve the applicant's right to present detailed arguments in response to this rejection without delaying issue of the allowed claims, the applicant has cancelled the noted claims herein and will present the same for further examination in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that further attention to such matters be postponed until presentation of such claims in a continuation patent application.

**5. Rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b)
as anticipated by Wong (Canadian Patent No. 2,121,120)**

The examiner has rejected claims 112-118 as being anticipated by Wong (Canadian Patent No. 2,121,120).

The applicant disagrees with this basis of rejection. To preserve the applicant's right to present detailed arguments in response to this rejection without delaying issue of the allowed claims, the applicant has cancelled the noted claims herein and will present the same for further examination in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that further attention to such matters be postponed until presentation of such claims in a continuation patent application.

**6. Rejection based on 35 USC § 103(a)
as obvious over Salter (U.S. Patent No. 3,270,410)**

The examiner has rejected claims 24, 117 and 118 as being obvious over Salter (U.S. Patent No. 3,270,410).

The applicant disagrees with this basis of rejection. To preserve the applicant's right to present detailed arguments in response to this rejection without delaying issue of

the allowed claims, the applicant has cancelled the noted claims herein and will present the same for further examination in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that further attention to such matters be postponed until presentation of such claims in a continuation patent application.

**7. Rejection based on 35 USC § 103(a)
as obvious over Hanna (U.S. Patent No. 2,810,191)**

The examiner has rejected claims 74, 75, 120, 121, 122 and 126 as being obvious over Hanna (U.S. Patent No. 2,810,191).

The applicant disagrees with this basis of rejection. To preserve the applicant's right to present detailed arguments in response to this rejection without delaying issue of the allowed claims, the applicant has cancelled the noted claims herein and will present the same for further examination in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that further attention to such matters be postponed until presentation of such claims in a continuation patent application.

**8. Rejection based on 35 USC § 103(a)
as obvious over Hanna (U.S. Patent No. 2,810,191)
in view of Wong (Canadian Patent No. 2,121,120)**

The examiner has rejected claims 77, 78 and 126 as being obvious over Hanna (U.S. Patent No. 2,810,191) in view of Wong (Canadian Patent NO. 2,121,120).

The applicant disagrees with this basis of rejection. To preserve the applicant's right to present detailed arguments in response to this rejection without delaying issue of the allowed claims, the applicant has cancelled the noted claims herein and will present the same for further examination in a continuation patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that further attention to such matters be postponed until presentation of such claims in a continuation patent application.

9. Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner indicated in the office action mailed June 15, 2005, that claims 1-18, 46-53, 57-73, 79-80, 101, and 105 were allowed in the office action dated June 15, 2005 (in the form previously presented with respect to claims 6, 13, 51 and 57). Claims 25-30, 37-38, and 40 were indicated to be allowable in the office action dated June 15, 2005, upon the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer. Accordingly, it is believed all remaining claims, including amended claims 6, 13, 51, and 57, are in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

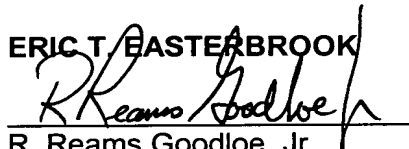
This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed June 15, 2005. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that this application is now limited to claims which are clearly patentable over references of record.

In the event any further issues remain after consideration of this response, the undersigned would welcome a phone call or e-mail in an attempt to resolve outstanding matters and bring the case into condition for allowance.

Done at Kent, County of King, State of Washington, on the 15th day of November, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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